

VERTE.076A**PATENT****Serial No. 10/059,682****Response to Office Action dated April 18, 2006****REMARKS**

Claims 2, 4-6, 9, 10, 13, 15-19 and 27-32 are pending in the application. Claims 16, 17, 18, 19, 27, and 28 have been amended. Claims 13 and 15, have been cancelled.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 2, 4-6, 9 and 10.

The Applicant would also like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 17, 18, 28 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the interest of furthering prosecution, the Applicant has placed claims 17 and 18, in independent form by incorporating the limitations of claim 15 from which they depended into each claim. Claim 28 was also placed in independent form by incorporating the limitations of claim 13. It is believed that these amendments place the claims 17, 18, and 28 into condition for allowance. Claims 16, 19, 27, and 29-32 should also be in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependence upon allowable base claims.

2. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 13, 15, 19, 27 and 30-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either U.S. Patent No. 6,754,980 to Lauerhaas et al. (hereinafter "Lauerhass") or U.S. Patent No. 6,228,563 to Starov et al. (hereinafter "Starov") in view of either U.S. Patent No. 3,833,163 to Denslow et al. (hereinafter "Denslow") or U.S. Patent No. 3,863,826 to Shoh (hereinafter "Shoh").

Although the Applicant disagrees with the rejection, in the interest of furthering prosecution, claims 17, 18 and 28 have been amended in order to place them in condition for allowance. Claims 16, 19, 27, and 29-32 all depend upon allowable base claims. The Applicant submits that the amendments made overcome the rejections.

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3. Conclusion

It is believed that all grounds for rejection and objection have been traversed or obviated, and all claims are in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully Submitted,



Tod A. Kupstas, Reg. No. 54,917

Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis Cohen LLP
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215 977-2335 - telephone
215 405-3935 - facsimile